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EMERGENCY: DANIMAL DOWN

SHANNON'S BOSS TAKES A PUNCH IN THE STOMACH DURING A QUENTIN TARANTINO-ESQUE STANDOFF

PAGE 7

Rider pride was alive and well at Sports on Tap in Saskatoon on Sunday, as dozens of Roughriders fans cheered Saskatchewan's 35-13 win over the Calgary Stampeders in the CFL's West Division final. Inset, the Roughriders' Dwight Anderson celebrates with fans at Calgary's McMahon Stadium after the game. MORGAN MODJESKI/METRO; INSET: JEFF MCINTOSH/THE CANADIAN PRESS

The big green CFL party begins

Celebration erupts across Sask. Riders book ticket to home-province Grey Cup game with walloping of Stampeders in West Division final

MARCO VIGLIOTTI
and MORGAN MODJESKI
saskatoon@metronews.ca

A big green party for the ages broke out provincewide on Sunday evening, and will continue all week.

The celebration erupted in bars and on streets in Regina, Saskatoon and other centres as the Saskatchewan Roughriders laid a good old Prairie beating on the Calgary Stampeders in Cowtown in the CFL's West Division final, by a stunning score of 35-13.

More than 100 fans braved chilly conditions for an impromptu celebration in downtown Regina immediately after the match, which put the hometown Green and White into the championship tilt to be played on their own turf at Mosaic Stadium next Sunday before about 45,000 fans.

"I'm so excited for the Grey Cup," said fan Dianne Ferguson, who took in the game at the Lancaster Taphouse in Regina's south end.

"It's great that the (Riders) are in it."

Fans broke out in raucous "We're No. 1!" chants and waved green Riders flags, while city police cordoned off the intersection of Albert Street and Victoria Avenue.

The Cup game will see the Riders tackle the Hamilton Tiger-Cats in a rematch of sorts of the 1989 championship match, which Saskatchewan won in thrilling fashion over the Ticats in Toronto on a last-minute field goal.

The Tiger-Cats, meanwhile, secured their spot in the Grey Cup game with a 36-24 victory over the defending Grey Cup champion Toronto Argonauts.

In Saskatoon, fans at the crowded Sports on Tap bar were ecstatic while watching the Riders run roughshod over the Stamps to head to the 101st Grey Cup.

"This is fantastic. We've waited for this all flippin' year, but we did it — we had a goal, and we're going to beat Hamilton," said Bernie Enright, who watched the game with her husband, Dennis.

"They call them Canada's team," Dennis said of the Roughriders, "and I think they just proved it today."

Bert Sutherland shared his enthusiasm, saying he's confident the Riders will win the title next weekend.

"It's exactly what I was praying for," he said, lauding Riders quarterback Darian Durant.

"It just goes to prove if you just leave Darian alone, he can do the job. ... You couldn't have asked for better."

Gigi Offen in Saskatoon said all of Saskatchewan will be cheering on the Roughriders.

"The province is going to go crazy," Offen said.

"Regina is going to go crazy, and it's going to be awesome."

MORE COVERAGE, PAGE 14

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No plans to nix flavoured smokes: Sask.

Despite a 'serious problem with youth smoking,' Province watches Ont., Alta., as they try to enact ban

MORGAN MODJESKI
morgan.modjeski@metronews.ca

Even though Saskatchewan has the highest rate of youth smoking in the country, the provincial Ministry of Health has no plan to prohibit sales of flavoured tobacco.

The Alberta and Ontario governments are pursuing legislation prohibiting sale of the products in an attempt to reduce the number of young cigarette users. However, Health Minister Dustin Duncan says Saskatchewan isn't drafting any such law.

Duncan adds, though, that Saskatchewan is watching with interest.

"We're going to have to look really closely at what Alberta and Ontario are proposing with their legislation and regulations," Duncan said.

According to the 2012 Canadian Tobacco Use Monitoring Survey, 20.2 per cent of Saskatchewan residents aged 15 to 19 are smokers — nearly double the national average.

However, Duncan noted that with people aged 12 to 19, Saskatchewan has seen about a six per cent drop in tobacco use in the past six to seven years. And he cites the province's anti-smoking strategy as a factor in the decline.

The Saskatchewan branch of the Canadian Cancer Society (CCS), which views flavoured tobacco as a major contributor to youth smoking, wants the provincial government to follow the lead of Alberta and Ontario.

"These are enticing, colourfully packaged products with all kinds of appealing flavours, like candy, fruit, chocolate and watermelon," said Donna Pasiechnik, manager of tobacco control.

"We have a serious problem with youth smoking in this province … and we need to prevent young people from starting," she added.

"As long as you have these candy- and fruit-flavoured products on the market, some for less than ($2), you're going to get kids looking to experiment."

'And I thought the North Pole was cold…'

Hundreds of people lined the streets of downtown Saskatoon on Sunday for a chance to see old St. Nick himself at the city's 23rd annual Santa Claus Parade. The big man in red greeted residents young and old while making his way to Midtown Plaza, where he'll remain throughout the Christmas season. MORGAN MODJESKI/METRO

U of S seeks student insight on inclusiveness

Place Riel Student Centre at the U of S on Sunday. MORGAN MODJESKI/METRO

With the University of Saskatchewan experiencing the most culturally diverse student population it's ever seen, a new campus survey aims to provide insight into whether they feel welcome at the institution.

The "campus climate" survey, distributed to about 21,000 students through e-mail last week, is the first of its kind at the U of S.

"One of the things we need to know is where we stand in respect to the opinions of our students on how welcoming our campus is," said Troy Harkot, U of S director of institutional effectiveness.

"There is a frame of thought and a body of knowledge that suggests that the more welcoming or inclusive a campus is, the more positive the environment and the more positive the outcome would be for the student."

He explained that the university wants to address areas in which students point out shortfalls, though positive experiences will illustrate examples to follow.

Students agreed that it's important for the school administration to hear their opinions.

"Being accepting of all races and all cultures is an important thing to look at as a university," said fifth-year regional urban-planning student Jeremy Dela Cruz.

Students have until Dec. 6 to complete the survey. Its results are planned for a release this coming spring.

MORGAN MODJESKI/METRO

Trans-Canada snarled

Jack Frost just getting warmed up on Sask. highways

Frigid conditions and blowing snow created havoc on Saskatchewan highways this past weekend.

Three semi-trailer trucks collided near Parkbeg on Saturday, slowing traffic on the Trans-Canada Highway for several hours.

Mounties in Gull Lake issued an advisory later in the day, urging motorists to avoid the Trans-Canada.

While the snow is expected to taper off, Environment Canada is forecasting a cold week in southern Saskatchewan as Regina hosts the Grey Cup.

Meteorologists are predicting a high of -17 C in Regina on Wednesday, with temperatures expected to rise only marginally through the week. METRO

The Trans-Canada Highway in the Balgonie area on Sunday.
ROSS ROMANIUK/METRO IN REGINA

No motive yet

Saskatoon police investigate man's early-morning stabbing on Circle Drive West

City police are investigating the stabbing of a 31-year-old man that took place early on Sunday.

At around 2:30 a.m., officers were told a man had been stabbed in the chest outside a business on the 300-block of Circle Drive West.

An ambulance took the victim to hospital.

Police said a motive for the attack has not yet been determined.

Anyone with information on the incident is asked to call Saskatoon police at 306-975-8300 or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477.

METRO

Southern California

Two injured in drone accident

The Navy says an aerial target drone malfunctioned and struck a guided missile cruiser during training off Southern California.

Lt. Lenaya Rotklein said two sailors were treated for minor burns after the ship was struck. She had no immediate information on whether the drone has malfunctioned before. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

U.K.

German mag says Brits monitor hotels

The German magazine Der Spiegel says the British intelligence agency GCHQ monitors bookings of at least 350 luxury hotels around the world to automatically track foreign diplomats and government officials who might be staying there.

The magazine cites documents provided by NSA leaker Edward Snowden that showed GCHQ began its "Royal Concierge"program more than three years ago.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Getaway on motorcycle

French hostage eludes captors

A French engineer kidnapped in northern Nigeria 11 months ago escaped on a motorcycle without paying ransom and was to fly home Sunday, police said. Francis Collomp escaped from his abductors and went to the nearest police station. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Some urban Chinese couples will now be allowed to have a second child. Experts estimate that the first easing of China's one-child policy will result in 1 million to 2 million extra births per year in the first few years. NG HAN GUAN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

China eases 1-child policy

Population growth. Couples where one partner is an only child are now able to have a second baby

Don't expect a new Chinese baby boom, experts say, despite the first easing of the country's strict one-child policy in three decades.

Some 15 million to 20 million Chinese parents will be allowed to have a second child after the government announced Friday that couples where one partner has no siblings can have two children.

But the easing of the policy is so incremental that demographers and policy-makers are not anticipating an influx of newborn babies at a time when young Chinese couples are already opting for smaller families.

"A baby boom can be safely ruled out," said Wang Feng, professor of sociology at the University of California Irvine.

Wang noted that although Chinese couples where both parents have no siblings have for some time been allowed to have a second child, many have elected to have only one.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Reproductive rights

China's government began to implement birth planning policies in the 1970s and placed a de facto one-child limit in 1980.

- It eased restrictions in 1984 to allow many families to have two children, including couples who do not have any siblings and rural couples whose firstborn is a girl.
- Some have managed to have additional children by paying fines.

South Africa. Mandela still unable to speak

South Africa's former president, Nelson Mandela, remains "quite ill" and unable to speak because of tubes that are keeping his lungs clear of fluid, though he is relaxed, his former wife told a South African newspaper.

"He is 95 years old and it is difficult for him, because of all the tubes that are in his mouth to clear the lungs, and prevent an infection recurring," said Winnie Madikizela-Mandela. Because of those tubes, she said, he communicates through his face.

"But the doctors have told us they hope he will be able to recover his voice," she said, adding that he is being treated by 22 doctors at his home.

Mandela's former wife shot down reports that the former anti-apartheid leader and Nobel Peace Prize winner was on life support.

"I have heard this nonsense that he is on life support. He is not," she told the newspaper. When asked if he was peaceful, she said, "Very. When he is very relaxed, he is fine," adding that it helps he is at his home, an environment that he recognizes.

Mandela has been in intensive medical care at his Johannesburg home since Sept. 1 after nearly three months in a hospital for a recurring lung infection.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NYC. Interracial couple a first in American politics

Another milestone is passing in America's racial journey: The next mayor of New York City is a white man with a black wife.

Even in a nation with a biracial president, where interracial marriage is more accepted than ever, Bill de Blasio's marriage to Chirlane McCray is remarkable: He is apparently the first white politician in U.S. history elected to a major office with a black spouse by his side.

De Blasio is preparing to take office on Jan. 1, with McCray playing a major role in his administration.

In July, a Gallup poll found that 87 per cent of Americans approved of interracial marriage — the highest rate ever — compared with 4 per cent in 1958. In 2010, more than 15 per cent of all new marriages were interracial, according to the Pew Research Center.

New York City's next mayor, Bill de Blasio, and his wife Chirlane McCray. ANDREW BURTON/GETTY IMAGES

Yet statistics also indicate why de Blasio and McCray are such a rarity. The Gallup poll showed that white men are the least likely to marry outside of their race.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Perks. Federal workers rewarded with more than $100K in gifts each year

Hockey tickets, camcorders, iPods, spa visits — even a gift card to the liquor store.

This is some of the half-million dollars of booty that one federal department handed out to favoured workers in the last five years.

The Treasury Board Secretariat, with about 1,900 employees, now spends well over $100,000 each year on rewards for staff.

The annual value has quadrupled since 2006, when the Conservative government first came to power.

The value hit a peak of $135,000 in 2011, the year the Conservative government began cutting staff and programs to wipe out the federal deficit by 2015.

Treasury Board President Tony Clement has recently criticized the benefits available to public servants, and publicly vowed to trim them, putting him at odds with unions.

But internal documents show his department has been ever more generous with its so-called Instant Awards program, sometimes handing out goods and services worth as much as $500 a pop. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Dozens injured

Tornadoes sweep across Midwest, killing at least 5

Dozens of tornadoes and intense thunderstorms swept across the Midwest on Sunday, unleashing powerful winds that flattened entire neighbourhoods, flipping over cars, uprooting trees and leaving at least five people dead.

Illinois took the brunt of the fury as the string of unusually powerful late-season tornadoes tore across the state, injuring dozens. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Pakistan planning to try ex-president for treason

Pakistan's former president Pervez Musharraf, centre, leaves after appearing in court in Rawalpindi, Pakistan, in April. Pakistan's government plans to put Musharraf on trial for treason for suspending the constitution while in power. ANJUM NAVEED/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Musharraf. Former leader could face death penalty if convicted for suspending constitution while in power

Pakistan's government plans to put former president Pervez Musharraf on trial for treason for declaring a state of emergency and suspending the constitution while in power, the interior minister said Sunday.

Musharraf, a former army chief, would be the first military ruler tried for treason in a country that has experienced three military coups in its 66-year history. He could face the death penalty or life in prison if he is convicted, but some question whether the country's powerful army actually will let that happen. Musharraf has maintained his innocence.

The government plans to send a letter to the Supreme Court on Monday asking that treason proceedings begin under Article 6 of the constitution, Interior Minister Chaudhry Nisar Ali Khan said during a news conference. The government made its decision after an investigating committee formed under the direction of the Supreme Court collected enough evidence for a trial, Khan said.

He insisted the government's decision to put the former president on trial was not a personal vendetta by Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, who was toppled in a military coup by Musharraf in 1999. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Charges

"The constitution was ruined and violated. The judiciary was humiliated."

Pakistan Interior Minister Chaudhry Nisar Ali Khan

Students in Bulgaria demand end to corruption

Students raise their hands to signal they are participating in a non-violent protest near the Bulgarian Parliament during an anti-government protest in Sofia last Tuesday. VALENTINA PETROVA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ivaylo Dinev believes the time has come to change his world. To do so, he's chosen a tactic straight from the 1960s — the sit-in.

The 24-year-old anthropology student is the informal leader of a group that has occupied Sofia University's main building since the end of October in hopes of forcing Bulgaria's Socialist-led government to resign.

"We want morality in politics; we want our politicians to work for the people and not for the Mafia," Dinev said. "That is the main reason we want the government to resign."

Bulgaria has struggled for decades against corruption. In the 28-nation EU, it lags only behind Greece on Transparency International's corruption-perception index. In the country's courts, magistrates have accepted bribes to end some corruption investigations and not a single high-profile person has been sent to jail. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Taking a stand

"We cannot just stand and watch these atrocities that are happening in the country; we cannot sit at home and wait for new elections."

Alexander Popov, 25, one of the students injured in clashes with police.

Growing movement

- The Sofia University occupation has spawned other university sit-ins, energizing a five-month-old movement against the government over allegations its leaders have ties to shady businessmen.
- Public-opinion polls show about two-thirds of Bulgaria's 7.3 million people support the protesters.

Uganda

Man faces charges after gay images found on laptop

A British man faces a court hearing in Uganda on Monday following the publication of images from his stolen laptop of him having sex with another man.

Bernard Randall, 65, faces charges of trafficking obscene material. Randall has called the charges, which carry a prison sentence of up to two years, "nonsensical." Also charged is Ugandan Albert Cheptoyek, who faces charges of committing an act of gross indecency and up to seven years in prison.

Randall's laptop computer was stolen from his home and then photos on the computer were sent to a Ugandan newspaper, which published them. That led to the charges being pressed against him and Cheptoyek.

Uganda has harsh anti-gay laws and the country received international attention after a lawmaker proposed a bill that would mandate the death penalty for some gay acts. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Olympics. Sponsors may face pressure as Russia's anti-gay law persists

The four-month campaign protesting Russia's ban on "gay propaganda" is entering a new phase, as activists try to heighten pressure on the Olympics' top corporate sponsors to speak out before the Winter Games in Sochi.

The Worldwide Olympic Partners — among them Coca-Cola, McDonald's and Visa — have thus far sidestepped requests to explicitly condemn the law, rebuffing efforts that included behind-the-scenes meetings and correspondence with Human Rights Watch.

Now, that organization and some of its allies have decided to go public. "It's taken months for the sponsors to formulate lawyerly responses that say nothing," said Minky Worden, director of global initiatives at Human Rights Watch. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Germany

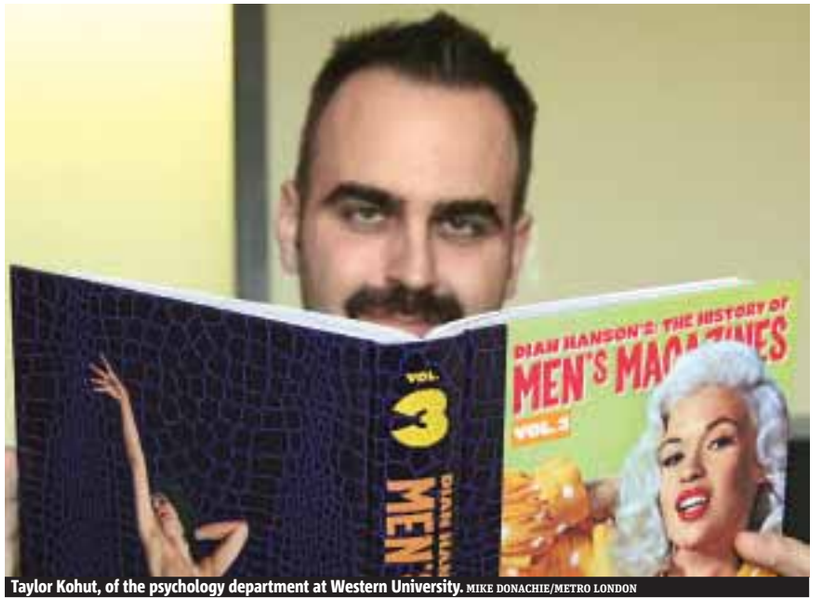
Man at centre of Munich art trove 'loved' his pictures

The recluse German collector who kept a priceless trove of art — possibly including works stolen by the Nazis — hidden for half a century says he did so because he "loved" them and says he wants them back.

Cornelius Gurlitt told German magazine Der Spiegel in an interview published Sunday that he wanted to protect the collection built up by his late father Hildebrand, an art dealer commissioned by the Nazis to sell works that Adolf Hitler's regime wanted to get rid of.

Bavarian authorities say they suspect the elder Gurlitt may have acquired pictures taken from Jews by the Nazis — and that this may lead to restitution claims by the original owners or their heirs.

Gurlitt said everybody needs something to love. "And I loved nothing more in life than my pictures," the magazine quoted him as saying. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Taylor Kohut, of the psychology department at Western University. MIKE DONACHIE/METRO LONDON

School studies pornography

Sexual health study. A special appeal is being made for people who don't use porn but have a romantic partner who does

MIKE DONACHIE
Metro in London, Ont.

Do you watch pornography? Shy? Won't admit it?

That's the problem, say Western University researchers in London, Ont. Lots of people use porn but too few people admit it.

So they have made an unusual appeal.

They want people to talk frankly — but anonymously — about their porn preferences to help a historic study into its effect on relationships.

"We know that a lot of people are consuming pornography, both men and women," said Taylor Kohut, research assistant in the department of psychology. "We've known this for quite some time, although specific numbers are hard to pin down.

"We know that some people think this is affecting their relationships in different ways.

"What we don't know is why or how."

Porn in relationships

"So far, we're seeing a huge range of things."

Taylor Kohut, research assistant at Western University.

That includes negative and positive impacts on how couples get along. But what's the overall effect? Nobody knows, and over the coming months, Western hopes to find out.

Saturday Night Live

Famous U.S. show mocks Ford in opener

Saturday Night Live has joined its late night TV brethren in claiming a stake in the Rob Ford comedy gold mine, lampooning Toronto's mayor. SNL opened its show with Bobby Moynihan portraying Ford in a skit that parodied his repeated public apologies for such things as smoking crack, buying drugs, driving after drinking and using vulgar language. Ford was again targeted later in the show on their Weekend Update. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Quebec. Snack-maker won't back down from native boy logo in holiday campaign

A Quebec snack-maker won't back down from plans to re-introduce a popular old logo of a cartoon aboriginal boy in a loincloth and feathered hat.

Krispy Kernels snack foods drew some criticism for a holiday marketing campaign featuring the old logo that hasn't been on the market for more than 20 years.

Its chip-package logo was well known for decades in Quebec, where the company is based.

It first appeared when the company was founded in 1959 and disappeared in 1990 during the Oka Crisis, a land dispute that resulted in a standoff and the death of a provincial police officer. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Vintage bags of Yum Yum potato chips featuring their aboriginal boy logo. RYAN REMIORZ/THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Rumours of the death of cable TV have been greatly exaggerated

Cutting the cord, slowly. While cheap streaming services are on the rise, only 3.5% of us have cancelled costly TV subscriptions since 2011

Watching television on the Internet is cheap and convenient, but so far only a small number of Canadians have cut the cord on traditional viewing as TV providers offer discount prices and spend more on programs to keep customers who pay bigger monthly bills.

The death of traditional TV watching has been overblown so far, say analysts who track viewing habits.

"The truth of the matter is the revolution hasn't come," said Brahm Eiley of the Convergence Consulting Group in Toronto.

It's slow moving, with about 400,000 TV subscribers — 3.5 per cent — out of 11.8 million who have cut the cord since 2011, Eiley said, adding cord cutting started after the arrival of online subscription service Netflix in late 2010.

Birth of 'cord nevers'

Eric Rosenquist, who has a blog called Adventures in Canadian Cord Cutting, said a real change will come in viewing with younger Canadians, calling them "cord nevers," an industry term used to describe those who don't bother at all getting a TV subscription.

"TV is not dead," Eiley said.

Canadians watch about 28 hours of TV a week and another three hours on the Internet, according to the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission.

But the movement to online viewing can't be ignored because it has a cost for TV providers. The average revenue that a TV customer generates is $65 monthly, compared with almost $45 for an Internet customer, Eiley said.

TV providers are fighting to keep every subscriber and Bell's Fibe TV has been leading the way with aggressive promotions noted by competitors Rogers and Videotron, which have lost customers in the intensely competitive environment.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Bedside manner 2.0

The doctor isn't in, but he can still see you now. RP-VITA robots enable physicians to have a different bedside presence as they "beam" themselves into hospitals to diagnose patients and offer medical advice during emergencies. A growing number of hospitals in the U.S. are using telepresence robots to expand access to medical specialists, especially in rural areas where there's a shortage of doctors.

RICH PEDRONCELLI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Trend. Once eggs dry up, old hens are dumped

Backyard chicken enthusiasts find the fun of bringing a slice of farm life into the city stops when the hens become infertile. Hesitant to kill, pluck and eat a chicken, some people abandon the animal in a park or rural area.

As a result, more old hens are showing up at animal shelters, where workers increasingly respond to reports of abandoned poultry.

Urban chicken populations have been on the rise since the mid-2000s.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Random biz fact of the day

3

At least half of all job seekers with smartphones or tablets spend 3 hours or more looking for jobs on those devices every week.

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Skilled Irish workers fill in labour gaps in Canada

Western Canadian construction companies that are struggling to hire highly skilled workers will be offering jobs to almost 500 skilled Irish trades people, following a recruitment drive in Dublin and Belfast.

The job fairs were organized by the B.C. Construction Association and drew about 800 people in Belfast Oct. 31 and about 2,000 others in Dublin Nov. 2, said Abigail Fulton, vice-president of the B.C. Construction Association.

Looking to hire were 28 companies mostly from B.C. and Saskatchewan, although two came from Alberta, added Fulton. A college and two construction associations also set up booths at the event.

Searching far and wide

"We needed to find markets where they're available, and Ireland is one of those with a high number of skilled, experienced workers."

Mark Cooper, president of the Saskatchewan Construction Association Inc.

"These are highly skilled positions, in specific trades where there are critical shortages, and these people, for the most part, particularly in B.C., are coming in as permanent residents," said Fulton.

The B.C. government has predicted there will be more than one-million job openings in the province over the next decade, and more than 153,000 of those will be among trades, transport, equipment operators and related occupations.

But there is also an immediate need for workers and Ireland appears to have a surplus, especially after its economy crashed in 2008. In fact, Fulton has said previously that one job fair last year drew 20,000 people.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Dubai Airshow

Boeing flying high as 777X purchases soar

Boeing Co.'s planned 777X long-haul airliner grabbed the bulk of orders Sunday at the first day of the Dubai Airshow, with at least 225 planes on the books.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Commuting chaos

Truckers halt traffic in France to protest new tax

Between 2,000 and 4,000 freight trucks closed off major French highways and slowed traffic Saturday to protest a proposed environmental tax on heavy loads.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Popular sushi-grade fish

Hold quota on vulnerable bluefin tuna: Activists

Conservationists are urging Canada not to ask for a greater quota of western Atlantic bluefin tuna when officials meet to discuss the lucrative, but vulnerable species. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Douglas Coupland

Douglas Coupland's latest novel, Worst. Person. Ever., is available from Random House Canada.

Day 11

metronews.ca/temp

Financially unstable

'The bank won't lend you money'

Temporary work in Canada presents a number of uncertainties on the job, but one real-estate agent in Saskatoon said those uncertainties go beyond the office.

Agent Paul Chavady says banks aren't willing to provide mortgages to those working in temporary positions.

"The bank won't lend you money," he said. "They require a stable income where a worker is permanently employed and off probation."

While real-estate agents in Saskatoon don't usually deal with rental properties, he said he would have no problem renting a temporary worker an apartment, but said he would be hesitant about signing a long-term lease, as the financial situation of a temp is too fluid. METRO

GETTY IMAGES

Temp vs. Perm

16%

A recent Statistics Canada study showed that temp workers earn on average 16 per cent less than their permanent peers.

Temp Enters a Universe of Pain

It was a Quentin Tarantino standoff where everyone holds up a gun at everyone else, except there weren't guns, just words and emotions. The Danimal looked at Kyle and then at Sarah and hissed. "You cradle robber."

Sarah shot back, "What about you, Dan?" (Referring to moi.)

"I'm only here with Shannon to talk business."

"Yeah right, cowboy."

Danimal walked up closer and that's when Kyle slugged him in the gut — well, more like where your gut touches your rib cage. It sounded like a kettledrum and Danimal fell to the floor shouting astonishingly unprintable things at Kyle and Sarah, who up and left.

"What is wrong with that kid!" shouted Dan, "Oh my God, the pain!"

"Thanks for accusing me of spying," I said.

He coughed. "Shannon, take me to emergency. I think I'm going to die."

We went to his BMW where he curled into a ball in the passenger seat while I drove.

I said, "I really shouldn't be doing this. You're mean."

"Just take me to Crown Permanente."

"Oh. Going to the rich people's hospital are we?"

"Please drive."

We arrived and Danimal hobbled out of the seat and into Emerge, an oasis of calm with tastefully matched fabrics and gentle lighting. There was a copy of Modern Symphony magazine on the walnut-inlaid coffee table. We went to the desk where a supermodel was moonlighting as a nurse on duty.

Dan groaned, "I need an X-ray. Quick."

"Of course, sir. I'll need to take an imprint of a credit card. We accept all major cards."

The Danimal walked up closer and that's when Kyle slugged him in the gut — well, more like where your gut touches your rib cage.

Danimal looked in his pockets. "Oh jeez, it's in the pocket of the jacket that went out for dry-cleaning today. Just let me in. I'll bring it tomorrow. I'm totally insured."

I could see that our supermodel had been through this many a time. "I'm sorry sir, but without an imprint of a valid card with the correct credit limit, I'm afraid there's nothing further we can do."

"I—" He was speechless.

"Welcome to my world," I said. "Get back in the car. I'll take you to Saint Eustace."

"That's in the worst part of town."

"What's your point?"

So we drove off to Saint Eustace. "It's just a slug in the gut, Dan. How bad can it be?"

"He broke something. Or damaged my heart. I can tell. Oh my God, the pain!"

We pulled up to Saint Eustace, which resembled the battle-ravaged Vietnamese village remains in part three of Full Metal Jacket. A conga line of sick and wounded people stretched out the front door and into the street. One quick wardrobe change and you'd have Les Misérables.

"I can't go in there," Danimal said.

"It's either that or nothing. Want me to take you home?"

"No!"

"OK, then join the line."

TO BE CONTINUED...

Random fact of the day

- The total weight of ants on Earth is about the same as all the weight of humans.

SOURCE: WTFFUNFACT.COM

Random biz fact of the day

85%

Smile like you mean it — 85% of the decision to hire or promote an employee is based on the individual's attitude.

SOURCE: NEXCAREER

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ANTI-BULLYING PLAN IS PROMISING

URBAN COMPASS

Paul Sullivan
saskatoon@metronews.ca

Amanda Todd in British Columbia. Rehtaeh Parsons in Nova Scotia. Todd Loik, closer to home, in North Battleford.

Three teens who killed themselves rather than suffer any more bullying, either in the real world or cyberspace. Who knows how many thousands more continue to be plagued by bullies and think about ending it all every day?

Adolescence is a terrible place when you're being bullied. You've heard somewhere that it gets better, but you don't see when or how. You would rather kill yourself than die in the embarrassment that comes with being called a helpless loser.

For too many young people, life is a jungle populated by laughing predators. This has to change. And the Saskatchewan government, to its credit, took the first step Thursday when it announced a comprehensive program to prevent and respond to bullying.

The question is, can well-meaning government initiatives have an impact where bullying actually happens — in the school hallways and washrooms, and on the way to and from school? Or on the Internet — Instagram, Facebook, SnapChat or Twitter? Or the next big thing, which is already happening but no one over 18 has a clue.

Kids are adept at avoiding authority wherever it snoops, so it's going to be tough to protect victims from the little snarks and sharks who terrorize them. But doing nothing is not an option.

Of the various ideas outlined in the government's plan, the one to create an anonymous online tool to report bullying seems most promising.

All the other stuff, a package of training and curriculum changes, information website, and, of course, the inevitable provincial bureaucracy tasked with producing anti-bullying policy, may prove effective someday.

But for the kids — kids who could be yours — who are suffering now, the anonymous reporting idea could work, if it's well-executed. That is, easy to use, truly anonymous and secure.

Of course, if you're 16 and the victim of a cyber-bullying campaign, you probably thought you were anonymous in the first place, and that got you into trouble. Amanda Todd, for example. She thought it was fun when she flashed to a camera and put it online. But that was enough for an online predator to steal the image and use it to blackmail her. That led to the torment that led to her death.

Perhaps Amanda failed to exercise good judgement; it's a steep price to pay for an adolescent mistake.

But there is hope. Not so long ago, gay and lesbian teens were mercilessly persecuted by their peers. Now, that's turning around thanks to support networks, information sites, curriculum changes, training — exactly the kinds of initiatives outlined by Education Minister Don Morgan and Legislative Secretary Jennifer Campeau last Thursday.

It's too late for Amanda, Rehtaeh and Todd. Let's hope it's not too late for the kids who are being bullied right now.

ZOOM

The terror of the monkey's mask

COURTESY PERTTU SAKSA

Monkeys forced to dance in public

Finnish photographer Perttu Saksa has explored Indonesia's chilling world of dancing monkeys — macaque monkeys clad in dolls' masks and children's clothes, trained to behave like humans and then sent out onto the streets to beg for money.

"They are sort of a mirror," says Saksa on how he highlighted the monkeys' weird, anthropomorphic quality.

"By making the monkeys the centre of my images, I focus on ideas of a more universal nature, like whether or not we should feel empathy towards them."

So for Saksa, the portraits are a barometer of gauging indifference towards others' suffering.

METRO

Photog's viewpoint

"They are animals, forced to behave like humans do. Of course all of them were very stressed, some of them were sick."

Perttu Saksa, artist/photographer, 35

Clamping down

- Last month, Jakarta authorities began clamping down on street monkey performances. The city government is buying back all monkeys used as street buskers and donating them to zoos.
- Jakarta Animal Aid Network says 350 animals work as street performers.

A hearty gesture

Pope promotes prayer like meds — crowd gets pillboxes of rosaries

Joking that he's like a pharmacist, Pope Francis is promoting prayer as medicine for the heart.

Appearing on Sunday at his studio window, Francis held up a rosary in a box designed to resemble a packet of pills, before volunteers distributed thousands of those boxes, which feature a design of a human heart.

Francis said he was recommending reciting the rosary prayer as a "spiritual medicine" that is "good for the heart."

Francis's down-to-earth way of speaking, in a style ordinary people can readily understand, is drawing larger-than-usual crowds to St. Peter's Square for his traditional weekly appearances. About 80,000 tourists and Romans packed the square on Sunday.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A box, shaped like a pillbox, contains a rosary that was distributed at the end of Pope Francis's traditional Sunday appearance in St. Peter's Square.

GREGORIO BORGIA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Twitter

@metropicks asked: Canada has been criticized for sending only $5M and 1 DART team for Philippines disaster relief. What do you think is the best way to help?

@jeffoulds: A lot better than China. $1.5 million

@matdey1980: ask the sport stars, they got money coming out of the wood works!

@jeangra68434593: Donate CASH to The Salvation Army and The Red Cross.Those on the ground know specifically what is most urgently needed & where

@SmithMuranocity: give me the 5MM we do what we can not what they want

@commsghost: don't send AnyThing !!

Follow @metropicks and take part in our daily poll.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU: Send us your comments: saskatoonletters@metronews.ca

metro

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Ebooks

12 Years a Slave

By. Solomon Northup

iBooks for iPad/Mac

MIND THE APP
Kris Abel
@RealKrisAbel
scene@metronews.ca

It takes an insidious plan to kidnap an intelligent, observant man like Solomon Northup, and harrowing brutality to keep him enslaved afterwards. No wonder a movie has been made of his determined escapes from strange cruelties and stranger men. This Bybliotech edition gives better care to its illustrations and makes the 160-year-old text easier to understand with audio narration.

Box office

Thor hammers competition

In an unlikely battle of sequels, Thor: The Dark World bested The Best Man Holiday at the box office. Disney's Thor: The Dark World continued its box-office reign with $38.5 million in its second week of release, according to studio estimates Sunday. Opening 15 years after the original The Best Man, Universal's The Best Man Holiday opened strongly with $30.6 million. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

In 12 Years a Slave, Brad Pitt plays enlightened Canadian carpenter Samuel Bass, who in real life was from Ontario's Augusta Township. CONTRIBUTED

Catching Canada's Bass

12 Years A Slave. Descendants of the real-life Samuel Bass learn of their ancestor

A Canadian connection to the harrowing film 12 Years a Slave has the real-life descendants of one courageous character beaming with pride.

The unflinching big screen account of slavery in the Deep South — already considered a frontrunner for awards season glory — is based on the true story of Solomon Northup, a free black man lured from his home in Saratoga Springs, N.Y., in 1841 and sold into slavery.

Played in the film by Chiwetel Ejiofor, Northup ends up forced to toil on a series of punishing Louisiana plantations where he's stripped of his papers, freedom and even his name.

His torment ends only after a chance encounter with an enlightened Canadian carpenter, Samuel Bass, played by Brad Pitt, who agrees to help him contact friends who can vouch for his identity.

Pitt's character is based on a real-life figure from Ontario's Augusta Township, and 160 years later, his descendants say they are amazed to learn of their forefather's brave response to a man in need.

"The movie is about Solomon Northup, right? But we would never have heard of him, I guess, if he hadn't met my great great great great grandfather," says 50-year-old Kenora, Ont., resident Laurie Morris, whose mother is descended from Bass's second daughter Hannah. "For the Canadian side of things, it shows we're good people. I just imagine being down there and being the only Canadian with an opinion like that."

Morris and other descendants say they are only now discovering details about Bass, who left Canada sometime around 1840 and took on a series of carpentry jobs throughout the United States.

It turns out that other aspects of his life were not so honourable — census records show he left behind a wife, Catherine Lydia Lane, and four daughters: Catherine, Hannah, Martha Maria and Zeruah Bass, says Bonnie Gaylord of the Grenville County Historical Society in Prescott, Ont.

Morris' 75-year-old mother says that could be why she had never heard of Samuel Bass until 12 Years a Slave.

"He wasn't talked about in our family. I guess it was because he was never around," says Rae Moulton Todd of Prescott, located about 100 kilometres south of Ottawa, near the original Bass family farm.

"It is kind of exciting. And then I turn around and I think, 'He really was a big jerk.' He left his wife and four daughters here to be looked after by whoever."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Bass' background

This past summer, historian and author David Fiske traced Bass to southern Ontario. He says he became curious about the man's background after doing some broader research on the book 12 Years a Slave for Fox Searchlight's marketing department in advance of the film's release. He found the link in Sue Eakin's 2007 enhanced version of Solomon Northup's 12 Years a Slave and Plantation Life in the Antebellum South, which included material from the diary of a lawyer Bass hired to draw up a will.

Bob Odenkirk gets seriously funny

Nebraska. Comedian reunites with Will Forte for an Alexander Payne dramedy

MATT PRIGGE
Metro World News in New York

Along with David Cross, Bob Odenkirk is responsible for the sketch comedy landmark Mr. Show. But he's done plenty of drama — just the funny kind. His role as sleazy (but weirdly capable) lawyer Saul Goodman was one of the highlights of Breaking Bad. Nebraska reunites him with SNL favourite Will Forte, who he directed in The Brothers Solomon. But it's a serious comedy — a funny but moving study from Sideways's Alexander Payne of a family whose sons (Forte and Odenkirk) have to deal with an aging, stubborn, alcoholic father (Bruce Dern) who thinks he's won $1 million. (He hasn't.)

How did you get involved in a dramedy from a major filmmaker that reunites you with Will Forte?
I have auditioned for three of Alexander's films. I read for Sideways, and I read for About Schmidt, and I read for this. I love his work; I'm a huge fan. I felt very confident in playing Ross because I feel like I know him for a number of reasons — not the least because my father had an alcohol problem. My response to the whole experience was not unlike Ross's, which is anger and lack of forgiveness.

People make a big deal out of comics doing drama and vice versa. How do you feel about that?
I just look at the character and see if I can play him honestly — see if I can relate; see if I can understand where their energy comes from and what they're after. And that's all I concern myself with.

Is drama the same thing as comedy, generally speaking?
I probably have a harder time playing large on some of those sketch comedy stages that I perform on than I do playing smaller and internalizing. And by the way, Vince Gilligan gave me the role of Saul Goodman because of Mr. Show, not for anything else. I think there's probably a couple things on Mr. Show where you can see the kind of commitment and modulation that a dramatic performance needs to have.

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

Who's the best Batman, Ben? A gutsy five-year-old

Ben Affleck is getting ready to suit up as Batman for Batman vs. Superman, but he's smart enough to know when he's been bested. After the Make-a-Wish Foundation helped transform San Francisco into Gotham City Friday for the benefit of 5-year-old Miles Scott — who quickly became known as Batkid — Affleck took to Twitter to show his support. "Batkid. Best Batman ever," he posted.

Ben Affleck

Pop Goes the Week

Beckham's big Knight may change Posh's constant scowl

STARGAZING
Malene Arpe
scene@metronews.ca

David Beckham is in line for a knighthood. That explains why his wife, while writing "Lady" 756 times this week had a brief facial expression other than scowling.

A man nails his privates to the ground in the Red Square to protest Russia's devolution into a police state. In unrelated news, Steve-O has been reported missing from his Los Angeles home.

Reasons that Liongate's possible Hunger Games theme park is a really fantastic idea. 1) The Rollercoaster of Random Weapons and Disembowelment is super-fun. 2) Squirrel on a stick may be neither healthy nor delicious, but it sure is cruel. 3) If your kids go missing while at the park, you can find them at the Lost and Drowned.

Justin Bieber's new song contains the lyrics, "Ooh, you know females/ And how they like to run their mouths." The song continues, "I'm so sorry/ I didn't mean it / I'm too little for corporal punishment/ And my rhymes suck/ #respectyourmothers. **This week in tiresome millionaires:** 1) Justin Timberlake complains about critics and says that sometimes he "just wants to bleeping kill everybody." 2) Olsen twin Mary-Kate says that people who don't like her and her sister — purveyors of $55,000 crocodile backpacks — have "an uneducated perspective." 3) Tom Cruise belatedly scoffs at his own statement that acting sometimes is as hard as fighting in Afghanistan.

Stevie Nicks will guest on American Horror Story. TOO MUCH HAPPINESS.

Lady Gaga. ALL IMAGES GETTY

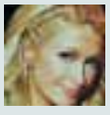
She may live fast but Gaga's not dying young

Lady Gaga is currently 27 years old, a fateful age for famous musicians, as that's the age at which Jim Morrison, Jimi Hendrix, Janis Joplin, Kurt Cobain and — most recently — Amy Winehouse, passed away. But Gaga insists she won't be joining the 27 Club. "I want to show people that I will last past 27 and I will last longer, and so will you," she says during an interview with New York radio station Z100. "I want to change this code in the atmosphere that in order to be remembered, I must die young. In order to be remembered as a legend, I must be dead first. This is unhealthy."

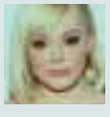
Brad and Angelina have a Jolie good time at awards

Brad Pitt kissed Angelina Jolie after her grand entrance at the film academy's Governors Awards Saturday night having been kept apart for weeks by busy schedules. Jolie received the Jean Hersholt Humanitarian Award, while Steve Martin and Angela Lansbury were given honorary Academy Awards for their distinguished careers. "Receiving the Hersholt award makes me feel like I am on the right path but also reminds me I have more to do," Jolie told The Associated Press this past week. The actress-director is co-founder of the Prevent Sexual Violence Initiative and serves as special envoy for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

Twitter



@ParisHilton
Just had the most incredible deep tissue massage down at the spa. Feel so relaxed. Perfect way to cure my jetlag. Now time for a swim!



@rosemcgowan
I want a cheeseburger

@SarahKSilverman
Other than a couple primal screams I haven't spoken aloud in a good 36 hours

Alec Baldwin

Baldwin gives his side of war with paparazzi

Alec Baldwin has sought to make amends for reportedly using homophobic language during an altercation with a photographer, a controversy that resulted in the suspension of his MSNBC talk show. But as Baldwin asserts in a Huffington Post editorial, the real problem still hasn't been addressed. "I am concerned for my family," he writes. "In Bloomberg's New York, 40 or 50 paparazzi are allowed to block streets, inconvenience homeowners, workers and shoppers, and make life miserable for my neighbours. Photographers have tripped and fallen on babies in strollers on my block. They provoke me, daily, by getting dangerously close to me with their cameras as weapons, hoping I will react." And if the paparazzi situation can't be remedied, Baldwin is more than prepared to take his acting ball and go home. "If quitting the television business is necessary in order to bring safety and peace to my family, then that is an easy decision. This country's obsession with the private lives of famous people is tragic," he writes.

Justin Bieber

Bieber in the neighbours' bad books

After an eventful tour leg through South America, Justin Bieber was probably hoping to have some relaxing time at home without any more trouble during his break in Los Angeles. Good luck with that. The 19-year-old pop star's neighbours reportedly called the police multiple times early Saturday morning with noise complaints, resulting in two visits from the Los Angeles County Sheriff's office, according to TMZ.

Travel tip

All-inclusive is the way to go

IT'S ALL RELATIVE
Kathy Buckworth
Kathybuckworth.com

Visiting an all-inclusive resort located on a hot sandy beach can be the perfect way for families to get fun, sun, and all-you-can-eat buffets designed to satisfy even the pickiest eater. Kids Clubs and a variety of activities for the whole family can keep everyone happy. But beyond the walls of the all-inclusive is likely a new country with history, culture, art, adventure, and cuisine to discover. Many resorts or vacation providers offer daily or overnight trips which leave from the resort and deliver an easy, hassle-free way to take advantage of the riches of the region. There is usually a selection of active adventure trips, visiting local villages or enjoying a cultural experience such as a museum or theatre.

Families can try local food, shop in markets for authentic goods, try unique physical challenges and contribute to the local economy while learning about the rich history. Transportation and accommodations are arranged for a hassle-free sojourn before returning back to the comfort and relaxation of the all-inclusive.

Exclusively online

- Parenting — it's like being a contestant on Let's Make a Deal. Find out why, and get a great cocktail recipe, at metronews.ca/voices. For the best-selling new mommy gift, pick up Reasons Mommy Drinks, by Lyranda Martin Evans and Fiona Stevenson, in bookstores now.

Temps in your family

A "now playing the role of..." voice-over is all it takes to swap actors out on daytime soaps. The newbies pick up right where their predecessors left off. Imagine if your family members could be subbed out for telegenic temps... Here are a few characters who would make excellent temporary relatives

MIKE DOJC/FOR METRO

Pet: Brian Griffin (Seth MacFarlane)

Harry S. Truman once advised getting a dog if you wanted a friend. Pooches offer loyal companionship and unconditional love. You may love them right back, but there's still always the hassle of cleaning up after them and taking them on walks. With Brian, there are no strings attached. He can totally take care of himself, so no poop scooping. Besides, he's a talking dog and incredibly smart. But make sure to lock up your liquor cabinet, as he has a nose for dry martinis.

Father: Robert Crawley (Hugh Bonneville)

A dapper well-bred gent, Robert may be a bit of a traditionalist, but at the same time he's always hip to the latest technologies, jumping at the chance to modernize Downton Abbey with electric chandeliers and telephone lines. Most importantly, he's an excellent dad who loves his daughters dearly. While he may initially disapprove when Sybil runs off with the chauffeur or Edith starts writing for the newspaper, he always comes around and eventually accepts decisions they make that further their happiness.

Mother: Rayna James (Connie Britton)

Nashville's Queen of Country — pretty much an amalgam of Reba McEntire, Faith Hill and Tami Taylor from Friday Night Lights — is sweet as tea. Despite decades atop the charts, this big-hearted star remains down to earth. How many other multi-platinum artists do their own grocery shopping? While her man situation can get complicated, she's always protective of her daughters. Her priority is shielding them from any drama. The only downside to having Rayna as a mom would be listening to your friends blather on about your yummy mummy.

Sister: Ann Perkins (Rashida Jones)

A great friend and confidante, Parks and Recreation's Ann Perkins is loyal almost to a fault, always putting the needs of others above her own. Above all, her most unique talent is fading into the woodwork while making other people shine. A top-notch straight woman, having her around will make your jokes seem way more hysterical. Also, considering how well she tolerates the oddball antics of Tom, Chris, Andy et al., you won't have to worry about any of your buddies creeping her out.

Wife: Jess Day (Zooey Deschanel)

The ultimate manic pixie dream girl, Jess is as bubbly as she is beautiful. The textbook definition of "adorkable," she constantly radiates sunshine while rocking Kewpie-doll-cute outfits. She's also loving, loyal and supportive to her circle of friends and is amazing with children. Besides, even Jess' borderline annoying habits of randomly bursting into song or channelling an '80s TV show for an impromptu impression are endearing 99 per cent of the time.

ELLE 3

Vanilla-infused Fruity Crème Brûlée makes for light ending

Want a treat after a hearty dinner that isn't too heavy? This crème brûlée with its surprising fruit finish is the prefect choice.

1. Divide berries evenly in bottom of four, oven safe (4 oz/118 ml) ramekins.

2. Spoon 1/3 cup (75 ml) yogurt into each ramekin, over top of berries.

3. Sprinkle yogurt in each ramekin with 1 tbsp (15 ml) sugar.

This recipe serves four. JJ THOMPSON

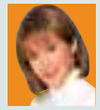
Ingredients

- 6 tbsp (90 ml) fresh berries (such as raspberries, blueberries or sliced strawberries)
- 1 1/3 cups (325 ml) Yoplait Yopa! Greek Yogurt – Va-Va Vanilla Bean
- 4 tbsp (60 ml) granulated sugar or brown sugar, depending on method used for last step

4. Holding kitchen torch 3 to 4 inches (7.5 to 10 cm) away from yogurt, caramelize sugar by heating with torch about 2 minutes, moving flame continuously over sugar in circular motion until sugar is melted and light golden brown. If you don't have a kitchen torch, you can also use your broiler. The results will be slightly different though and it is recommended that you use brown sugar instead of granulated sugar. Preheat your broiler. Sprinkle each serving with 2 tsp (10 mL) brown sugar. Place ramekins on a baking sheet and place 4 inches (10 cm) from broiler and broil until sugar is melted. COURTESY YOPLAIT CANADA

Healthy eating

Choose it and lose it



ROSE REISMAN
for more, visit rosereisman.com or follow her on twitter @rosereisman

Who doesn't love street meat? When you're on the go, it's a great lunch solution — but the wrong choice will have you filling up on calories and fat.

Sausage on bun with fried onions, cheese sauce, peppers

887 calories/55 g fat

Street vendors selling greasy sausages will put your blood pressure and cholesterol off the charts.

Equivalent

A sausage on a bun with fried onions, cheese sauce and peppers is equal in calories to nine M&M Meat Shop mesquite steaks.

2 hot dogs on small buns with mustard, relish and ketchup

388 calories / 22 g fat

You're better off enjoying two small hot dogs with half the fat and calories.

Dessert. Grape Tart

1. Preheat oven to 375 F.

2. Line a 10-inch tart pan with pastry. Arrange grapes snugly in decorative rings in pastry.

3. In an electric mixer combine almond paste, egg, sugar, butter, flour, and salt until smooth to create frangipane.

4. Carefully spread over arranged grapes and bake for 35 minutes, until the tart is golden brown and cooked through. If using a convection oven, bake at 350 F for 30 minutes.

5. When tart is cool, remove from pan and dust with confectioners' sugar. NEWS CANADA

Ingredients

- 1 tart pastry, single crust for 10-inch tart
- 3 1/2 cups red or black seedless California grapes
- 2 oz almond paste
- 1 large egg
- 1/4 cup sugar
- 1/4 cup butter
- 2 tbsp flour
- Pinch salt
- Confectioners' sugar

Pot Stickers have a sweet side

Typically, pot stickers are wonton wrappers filled with pork or shrimp, crisped up in a pan, steamed, re-crisped, then served with a dipping sauce.

These Blueberry Pot Stickers take the savoury bites and turn them into a sweet snack.

1. In blender, combine 1 cup of blueberries, the yogurt, orange liqueur (if using), 1 tablespoon of the sugar, and 2 teaspoons of the lemon juice. Purée until very smooth, then set aside.

2. In bowl, toss heaping cup of remaining blueberries with remaining tablespoon of sugar and 2 teaspoons of lemon juice.

3. Spread out 4 wonton wrappers on work surface, keeping rest covered with plastic wrap. Place small mound of sugared blueberries in centre of each.

4. To form dumplings, brush the edges of wrappers with water. You can use a pastry brush, but it's also easy to just dunk your finger in a glass of water and rub it along the edges of the wrappers.

5. Lift 2 opposite sides of each wrapper up and press together above centre of blueberry mound. Bring other two opposite sides up and press them together. This should form a little box with blueberries inside. Pinch wrapper together very tightly at seams to make sure they are well sealed. Repeat with the remaining blueberries and wrappers.

This recipe serves four. MATTHEW MEAD/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

6. In a large nonstick skillet over medium, heat the oil until hot. Arrange the wonton packages, seam sides up, in the skillet. Cook until the bottoms are golden, about 1 to 2 minutes. Add 1/2 cup water, reduce the heat to low, cover the skillet, and cook for 5 minutes. At this point the wonton wrappers should look somewhat translucent and cooked. If they don't, add a little more water and steam for 2 minutes.

7. Remove the lid and continue to cook until the water has completely evaporated and the bottoms of the pot stickers are crisp and golden. Gently loosen the pot stickers and divide between 4 dessert plates. Sprinkle lightly with powdered sugar and top each plate with a small scoop of frozen yogurt. Garnish with the remaining blueberries and mint. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/ SARA MOULTON, AUTHOR OF SARA MOULTON'S EVERYDAY FAMILY DINNERS.

Ingredients

- 3 cups blueberries, divided
- 1/4 cup nonfat plain Greek yogurt
- 2 tbsp orange liqueur (optional)
- 2 tbsp sugar, divided
- 4 tsp lemon juice, divided
- 16 square wonton wrappers
- 1 tbsp vegetable oil
- Powdered sugar and mint sprigs, to garnish
- 1 cup low-fat vanilla frozen yogurt

Is it loopy to keep cursive in class?

Put down your pencils. As cursive writing loses steam in schools across North America, experts way in on the pros and cons of a former classroom staple

Cursive writing is no longer being taught in many schools in the U.S. as some 45 states have adopted Common Core standards, which have eliminated the teaching of cursive writing. AL BEHRMAN / THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The swirling lines from Linden Bateman's pen have been conscripted into a national fight to keep cursive writing in the classroom.

In years gone by, cursive helped distinguish the literate from the illiterate.

But now, in the digital age, people are increasingly communicating by computer and smartphone. No handwritten signature necessary.

Call it a sign of the times. When the new Common Core educational standards were crafted in the U.S., penmanship classes were dropped. But at least seven of the 45 states that adopted the standards are fighting to restore the cursive instruction.

The argument for cursive

Bateman, a 72-year-old state representative from Idaho, says cursive conveys intelligence and grace, engages creativity and builds brain cells.

"Modern research indicates that more areas of the human brain are engaged when children use cursive handwriting than when they keyboard," said Bateman, who handwrites 125 ornate letters each year. "We're not thinking this through. It's beyond belief to me that states have allowed cursive to slip from the standards."

Why was it dropped?

U.S. state leaders who developed the Common Core — a set of preferred K-12 course offerings for public schools — omitted cursive for a host of reasons, including an increasing need for children in a digital-heavy age to master computer keyboarding and evidence that even most adults use some hybrid of classic cursive and print in everyday life.

"If you just stop and think for a second about what are the sorts of skills that people are likely to be using in the future, it's much more likely that keyboarding will help students succeed in careers and in school than it is that cursive will," said Morgan Polikoff, an assistant professor of K-12 policy and leadership at the University of Southern California.

The movement to have cursive restored

U.S. states that adopted Common Core aren't precluded from deviating from the standards. But in the world of education, where classroom time is limited and performance stakes are high, optional offerings tend to get sidelined in favour of what's required.

That's why at least seven states — California, Idaho, Indiana, Kansas, Massachusetts, North Carolina and Utah — have moved to keep the cursive requirement. Legislation passed in North Carolina and elsewhere couples cursive with memorization of multiplication tables as twin "back to basics" mandates.

Cursive advocates cite recent brain science that indicates the fluid motion employed when writing script enhances hand-eye co-ordination and develops fine motor skills, in turn promoting reading, writing and cognition skills.

They further argue that scholars of the future will lose the ability to interpret valuable cultural resources — historical documents, ancestors' letters and journals, handwritten scholarship — if they can't read cursive. If they can't write it, how will they communicate from unwired settings like summer camp or the battlefield?

"The Constitution of the United States is written in cursive. Think about that," Bateman said.

What do the students and teachers think?

All the fuss seems a bit loopy to certain members of gens X, Y and Z — which have diverged increasingly from handwriting to computers.

The volume of first-class mail at the U.S. Postal Service fell in 2010 to its lowest level in a quarter-century, just as computer use — and the keyboarding it involves — was surging.

Some 95 per cent of teens use the Internet, and the percentage using smartphones to go online has grown from 23 per cent in 2011 to 37 per cent today, according to the Pew Research Center. A 2012 Pew report found the volume of text messages among teens rose from 50 a day on average in 2009 to 60 a day on average two years later.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Not so fast!

"We're not thinking this through. It's beyond belief to me that states have allowed cursive to slip from the standards."

Linden Bateman
U.S. state representative, Idaho

What are the implications?

Adults unable to write cursive might think back to the experiences of Jacob Lew when President Barack Obama nominated him as treasury secretary in 2013.

- As treasury secretary, Lew's signature would be on U.S. currency. But that signature looked more like a series of loops than the distinct letters in his name.
- "Jack assured me that he is going to work to make at least one letter legible in order not to debase our currency," the president joked at the time.

'Round the world wisdom

The short end of the stick ain't so bad

The severe market crash in October 2008 changed my life. I started running to regain my health, both emotional and physical. Shortly after I took my first steps, I ran the Gobi March in China in June '09, followed by the Atacama Crossing in Chile in '10, and the Sahara Race in Egypt in '11. In this post, I share a lesson about life, learned from the desert.

LESSONS FROM THE DESERT
Stefan Danis
life@metronews.ca

Most people facing adversity feel as if they received the short end of the stick. "Poor me!" they tell themselves. A great deal of grit and determination are needed to overcome adversity, two aspects inaccessible to those feeling victimized.

The simplest way to eliminate such feelings is to put them in perspective. When witnessing real adversity, consciously lock it into memory and recall it as a standard with which to compare your own. In this context, you can turn your "mountain" of adversity into a "molehill."

The Gobi race took place in a predominantly Muslim region of China, where the Chinese government was implementing an aggressive "integration" agenda overtly suppressing the local way of life. Five days after we crossed the finish line, a peaceful demonstration raising awareness for 300,000 individuals about to be forcibly removed out of their ancestral homes turned into a massacre: 57 dead protesters.

Life can be harsh, no question. Bad days come with regularity but keep things in perspective and count your blessings. Adversity carries a much smaller burden when we place it in its right context.

Can you contextualize your adversity?

STEFAN DANIS IS THE CEO OF NEXCAREER AND MANDRAKE, AND THE AUTHOR OF GOBI RUNNER

Wild ride ahead for Grey Cup week

CFL playoffs. Riders pull off upset of Stamps to give hometown fans a rooting interest in next Sunday's championship

Roughriders head coach Corey Chamblin has a bucket of water poured over him after his team's win over the Calgary Stampeders in the West Division final on Sunday at McMahon Stadium. JEFF MCINTOSH/THE CANADIAN PRESS

The dream scenario for the host city of a Grey Cup is having the home team in it.

The Saskatchewan Roughriders made the Regina organizing committee and their fans happy Sunday with a 35-13 upset of the Calgary Stampeders in the West Division final.

Chants of "Henry, Henry" rang out in the visitors' locker room at McMahon Stadium. Saskatchewan will face the Hamilton Tiger-Cats and quarterback Henry Burris in the Grey Cup at Mosaic Stadium.

The Roughriders will attempt to become the third host team in a row to win the CFL's championship trophy. The Argonauts beat Calgary in Toronto last year to take the Cup and the B.C. Lions won it in Vancouver in 2011.

"That's another part of the storyline, but for us, it's about having a Grey Cup at home," Roughriders quarterback Darian Durant said. "We know how hard it is to come to Mosaic for opposing teams. To have (40,000) or 45,000 Rider fans, it's going to be great."

The Ticats punched their ticket to this year's Grey Cup with a 36-24 win over the Argos in the East final earlier Sunday.

This year's Grey Cup features teams that finished second in their respective divisions and needed to win division semifinals and finals to get there.

"We know Rider Nation is fired up," Durant said. "They deserve it and it's going to be a fun week."

Saskatchewan last played in the Grey Cup in 2009 and 2010 and lost to the Montreal Alouettes in both games.

Calgary boasted the best regular-season record in the CFL at 14-4, but could not hang on to the ball Sunday. The No. 1 offence in the regular season had seven turnovers and had possession for just eight minutes and 43 seconds in the first half.

"It's hard to explain," Calgary head coach John Hufnagel said. "Obviously we're a little bit in shock the way the game unfolded. Having that many turnovers to ruin the game (and) to have that type of tackling by our team, it's hard to explain."

Trailing 22-6 at halftime, Hufnagel replaced starting quarterback Kevin Glenn with Drew Tate, but the Stampeders managed just one touchdown in the second.

Durant completed 24-of-30 passes for 280 yards with touchdown passes to Rob Bagg, Weston Dressler and Chris Getzlaf.

Running back Kory Sheets scored on a one-yard touchdown plunge. Kicker Chris Milo made two field goals in the fourth quarter after his first of the game was blocked.

The Roughriders lost both games at McMahon during the regular season, but their most recent on Oct. 26 was by just four points.

"The games where we played them earlier this season, we felt like we gave them the games," Durant said. "All along, we felt like we were the better team." THE CANADIAN PRESS

Roughriders quarterback Darian Durant greets fans at McMahon Stadium after Sunday's 35-13 win over the Stampeders. LARRY MACDOUGAL/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Stamp'd out

"They capitalized on every opportunity that they had. Our hats off to them. They played a good game."

Stampeders defensive back Brandon Smith

Argos-Ticats

Boatmen sink after Ford joins party

Toronto Mayor Rob Ford
THE CANADIAN PRESS

Toronto Mayor Rob Ford posed for dozens of pictures, walked arm in arm with drunken fans and hoisted a tinfoil Grey Cup over his head.

Toronto's embattled mayor showed up at Rogers Centre on Sunday to watch his Argonauts lose the East final to the Ticats, ignoring a request from the CFL's commissioner that he stay away.

And after police and security personnel finally had the smiling mayor safely through a mob of fans and into his Cadillac SUV after the game, Ford rolled down his window and high-fived people as he was driven away.

The Argos were leading 24-17 when Ford arrived shortly after halftime, wearing his "Mayor Ford" Argos jersey. His arrival caused a commotion in Section 129, where he posed for pictures as people tried to get a better look at the mayor that has been making international headlines. THE CANADIAN PRESS

2022 World Cup

Workers being exploited in Qatar, report alleges

An international human-rights group has catalogued alleged human-rights abuses in Qatar in connection to construction projects for the 2022 World Cup, and called on FIFA to ensure the exploitation of migrant workers ends.

In a report published Sunday, Amnesty International warned that migrant workers are exposed to dangerous working conditions, poor standards of accommodation and the non-payment of wages.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NASCAR

Johnson adds another title

Back on top with only two NASCAR greats left to catch, Jimmie Johnson won his sixth championship in eight years Sunday.

Johnson was on cruise control at Homestead-Miami Speedway, where he needed only to finish 23rd or better to wrap up the title.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NHL

Senators stung by Blue Jackets

R.J. Umberger had the eventual winner as the Columbus Blue Jackets scored three straight power-play goals on Sunday to defeat the Ottawa Senators 4-1.

Ryan Johansen and Fedor Tyutin also scored with the man advantage for Columbus (7-10-3), while Derek MacKenzie scored at even strength. Sergei Bobrovsky stopped 30 shots for the win.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

UFC 167

"I can't sleep at night now. I'm going crazy. I have issues. I need to relax. I need to get out for a while."

Georges St-Pierre, hinting at retirement at his post-fight news conference after winning a controversial, razor-thin split decision over Johny Hendricks to keep his welterweight championship on Saturday night at UFC 167 in Las Vegas.

Horoscopes

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
From this week things can only get better. No, really! Keep telling yourself that your luck is on the turn and in a matter of days you will be seeing concrete evidence that it is.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
The lesson you need to learn this week is that not even a Taurus can do it all on their own.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
The more you give the more you get in return. That applies to all aspects of your existence but especially to partnerships of a personal nature.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
What can you do to make a loved one's life more enjoyable? You are well aware they have made sacrifices for you, now you must consider what they need from you in return.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
It may be frustrating that so many little things are going wrong but don't let it get to you. Come the end of the week a new phase will begin and suddenly it will all start going right for you again – the little things and the big things.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
You know you cannot escape from the consequences of your actions so don't waste time trying.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
In every enterprise there comes a time when you have to choose whether to carry on and give it your all or admit that it no longer inspires you and call it a day.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
An issue you have been avoiding has now to be faced. You have just four days to get your act together and resolve the situation – after that the matter will be taken out of your hands.

♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
A few days from now the Sun will enter your sign and a new cycle will begin. Before then you must tie up loose ends, be they personal or professional, that might hold you back.

♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Make the most of the Sun's final few days in the friendship area of your chart to have fun with people whose outlook and interests match your own.

♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
You have a tendency to say what is on your mind, even when it might be wise to stay quiet, and someone in authority won't be amused by your honesty today.

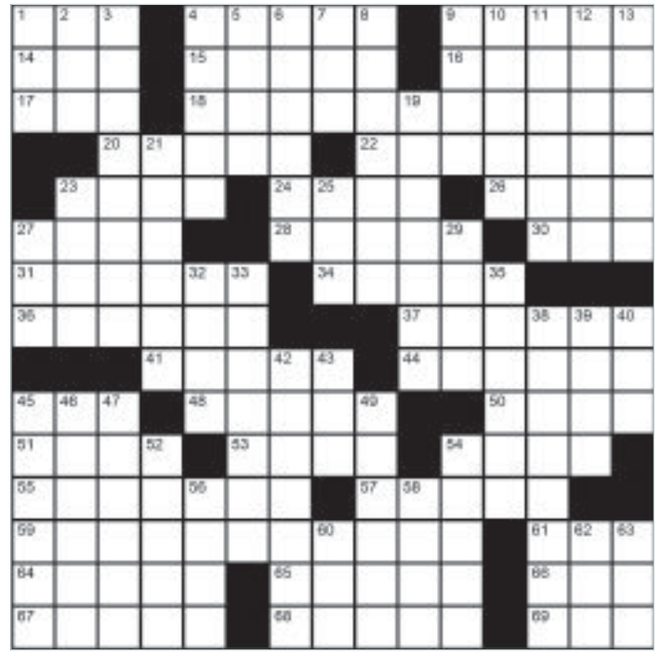
♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
For some reason you have started to doubt a colleague's loyalty but what happens over the next few days will reassure you they are still on your side.

SALLY BROMPTON

Crossword: Canada Across and Down

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers.

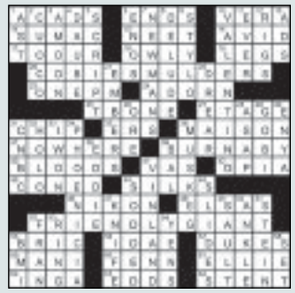
BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



Across
1. Cdn. place to buy stuff on TV
4. Actress Cheryl, and surnamesakes
9. Peru's past persons
14. Manfred Mann's "Do __ Diddy Diddy"
15. Towards-the-rear
16. Actor Peter O'Who?
17. Will Smith movie
18. Wilderness-subsisting show starring Canadian Les Stroud
20. __ Gritty Dirt Band
22. Some windows
23. Becomes soaken wet
24. Swag
26. Identical
27. Jimmy __ (Shoe designer)
28. Blackthorn fruits
30. Canada, HMCS ...The States, _ _ _
31. __ Nogait National Park, NWT
34. Good __ __
36. Trojan War advice-giver
37. Moviedom's Mr. Mulroney
41. Namesakes of Canadian musician Mr. Jurvanen, aka Bahamas
44. Fork over dough: 2 wds.
45. "You're it!" game
48. Tutu textile
50. Finales
51. Stare
53. Baseball great Willie
54. Coca-Cola guru Mr. Candler, and others (b.1851 - d.1929)
55. Blunders
57. Paris bridges
59. Terrain of trains and tracks: 2 wds.
61. Method
64. This planet
65. No, in slang
66. Farm female
67. Tees' predecessors
68. Patricia of movies, and others
69. Chem. ending

Down
1. Ex-airline
2. Mr. Mineo
3. Winds from The Rockies
4. Holds out
5. Adjoin
6. "Splash" (1984) star Ms. Hannah's
7. Old Rome's 605
8. Vehicles launched in 1959 by Canadian inventor Joseph-Armand Bombardier (b.1907 - d.1964)
9. "Ripley's Believe __ Not!": 2 wds.
10. Standards
11. Baie-__, Quebec
12. Startles
13. Has a gut instinct
19. What Tom Mulcair supporters do in elections: wd. + acr.
21. "_ __ Feeling" by The Black Eyed Peas
23. Elisabeth of "CSI: Crime Scene Investigation"
25. 'Motor' suffix
27. Type of package [abbr.]
29. Steve Winwood's "While You __ _ Chance"
32. Big sch. in Canada's largest city, _ __ _
33. "Lay It on the Line" Canadian band
35. Most sardonic
38. British Columbia range, __ Mountains
39. Lute-like instruments
40. "Private Dancer" singer's initials-sharers
42. Skin stuff
43. Tricky
45. Certain candy
46. Ancient shopping spots
47. Adhesive appliers
49. Spain, in Spanish
52. A-List
54. Tennis great Mr. Roddick's
56. "Icky-poo!" equivalents
58. Kind of agreement
60. Saskatoon's airport code
62. Have
63. Tiny

Friday's Crossword



Sudoku

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

Friday's Sudoku

			5			7		
9		6		3			8	
4			9			1		
		5		8	3			2
	1						6	
3			2	7		8		
		1			4			3
	2			1		5		8
		7			2			

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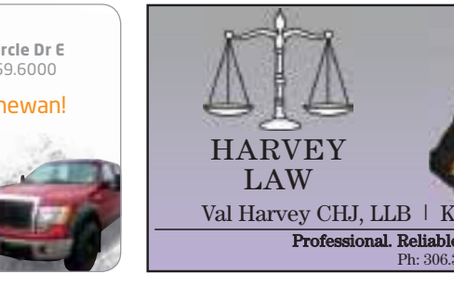
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